

**CITY OF ZANESVILLE
STORMWATER UTILITY PROGRAM**

POLICY: CREDITS**I. PURPOSE:**

This is the eleventh billing policy paper in a series of billing policy papers that document the overall billing mechanism development process. Many stormwater utilities or stormwater program districts across the country have established a credit programs to reduce stormwater charges to those property owners within the service area that perform the following activities:

- Reduce the impact of stormwater (either quantity or quality) for a property to an acceptable standard; and/or
- Reduce the cost of service to the city by performing activities on accepted properties that otherwise would have to be performed by and be the responsibility of city staff.

Furthermore, a stormwater credit should be offered as an incentive to owners of properties to be good stewards of the city's stormwater resources. The benefit to the property owner is a reduction in the stormwater bill because of a "hands-on" involvement in the stormwater program. The concept is that the entire community benefits from these enhancements or improvements to the stormwater system through the reduction in flooding and through improvement of the quality of water in the system.

Once a credit is established and approved by staff, an annual update will need to be submitted by the property owner as an on-going verification that the property (facility) is being maintained and in good working order. Additionally, a potential credit may be available as a one-time reduction for a single action on a case-by-case basis. However, this type is credit is extremely rare.

II. DISCUSSION:

Typical stormwater credits may include such things as:

1. Detention/Retention;
2. Water Quality Ponds
3. Grass Filter Strips;
4. Riparian Water Quality Buffers (forested buffer strips);
5. Infiltration Trenches;
6. Adopt a Stream;
7. Education; and
8. Direct Discharge

Credits for any of the above or combinations are generally limited to some fixed percentage of the specified stormwater fee and the actual credit applied typically falls in a range from 10% to approximately 30% for each credit with a limit in the reduction of fees from 30% to 50% of the total stormwater bill. For example, a property owner can apply for all possible credits that are available, but each property is limited to a maximum of 50% whether the property meets the criteria that would otherwise exceed the 50% maximum.

Virtually all the stormwater credits programs established to date are associated with stormwater utilities/districts that were set up to address water quantity (flooding) and maintenance issues. Thus, additional research may be necessary on credits that relate specifically to water quality.

III. PROCEDURES:

Those properties receiving a stormwater credit are typically required to submit an initial application and justification for the requested credit or credits. In some communities, an application fee is charged with the application. Additionally, an annual report verifying that the activity or activities that meet the credits criteria is/are properly being maintained and all the rules and regulations of the credits that was granted initially is/are being followed.

For certain credits, the owner may be required to submit engineering design and calculations supporting the requested credit. Many utilities require certification by the property owner that the activity credited will be properly operated and maintained. Some utilities require an annual inspection of the credited facility and certification of its continuing operability by the property owner.

It is assumed with the credit program, that a field inspector will generally inspect each property that submits a credit application, at least once every two to three years. This is dependent on the total amount of credit applications received and should be adjusted accordingly.

IV. TAC RECOMMENDATION:

The JHA/ERC Team recommends that the City of Zanesville implement a stormwater utility credit (Best Management Practice), (BMP) program.

V. TAC ACTION:

The TAC reviewed, discussed and approved this billing policy paper during the May 17, 2017 TAC meeting.

Approved:  _____

Date: 5/17/17